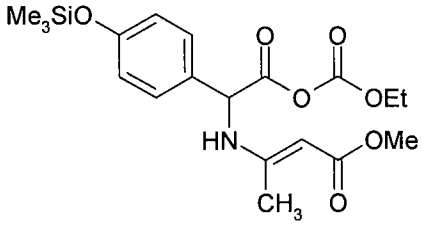
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

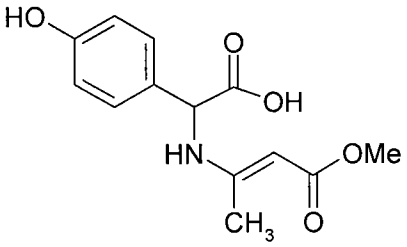
Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing silylated mixed anhydride of formula II:



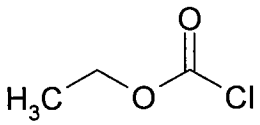
---------- II

which comprises reacting the compound of formula III or a salt thereof:



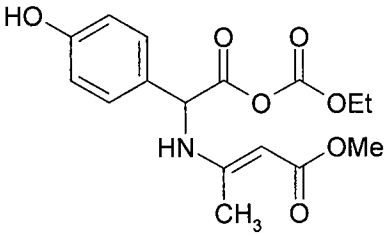
---------- III

with ethyl chloroformate of formula IV:



---------- IV

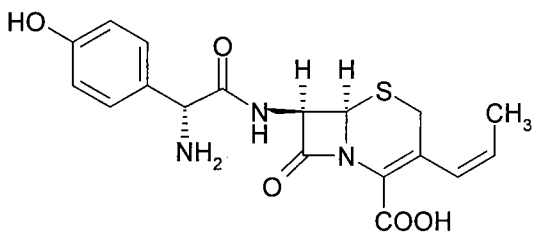
to obtain mixed anhydride of formula V:



---------- V

then silylating the mixed anhydride of formula V obtained above with *N,O*-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide to obtain the compound of formula II.

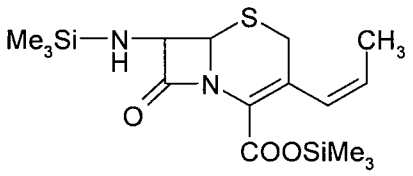
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the mixed anhydride of formula V is prepared by reacting [R-(Z)]-[4-hydroxy-α-[(3-methoxy-1-methyl-3-oxo-1-propenyl)amino]]benzeneacetic acid, mono potassium salt (amoxydane salt) with ethyl chloroformate in a chlorinated solvent.
3. (Original) The process according to claim 2, wherein the chlorinated solvent is methylene chloride.
4. (Original) The process according to claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of dimethylformamide along with the said chlorinated solvent.
5. (Currently Amended) The process according to claims 2--4, wherein the catalytic quantities of N-methyl morpholine and methanesulfonic acid are used.
6. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction between the compound of formula III or salt thereof and ethyl chloroformate is carried out below about -20^{0}C.
7. (Original) The process according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out below -40^{0}C.
8. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the silylation of the mixed anhydride is carried out in a chlorinated solvent.
9. (Original) The process according to claim 8, wherein the chlorinated solvent is methylene chloride.
10. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing (6R, 7R)-7-[2-amino-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl) acetamido]-3-[(Z)-propenyl]-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid of formula I (cefprozil) or hydrate; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.



---------- I

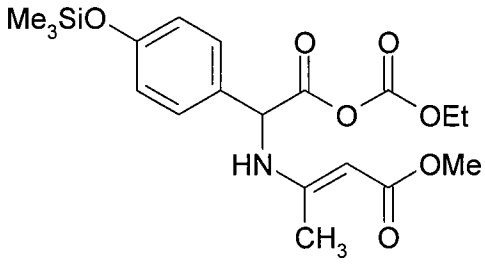
which comprises:

a) acylating the compound formula VI:



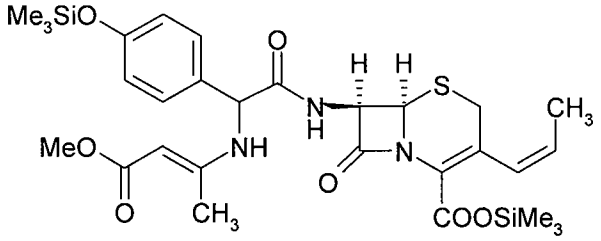
---------- VI

with the compound of formula II:



---------- II

in a chlorinated solvent to obtain a compound of formula VII:



---------- VII

b) deprotecting the compound obtained above with an aqueous hydrochloric acid to give cefprozil of formula I;

c) precipitating cefprozil as dimethylformamide solvate from the reaction mass obtained in step (b) and

d) converting the solvate of step (c) into cefprozil or cefprozil hydrate; or pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

11. (Original) The process according to claim 10, wherein the chlorinated solvent is methylene chloride.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claims ~~10 and 11~~, wherein the solvate is precipitated from the reaction mass at a pH of above 5.5 to 7.0 in the presence of dimethylformamide.

13. (Currently Amended) The process according to claims ~~10-12~~, wherein cefprozil hydrate is prepared in step (d) by stirring dimethylformamide solvate in water, filtering the de-solvated cefprozil and drying.

14. (New) The process according to claim 3, wherein the catalytic quantities of N-methyl morpholine and methanesulfonic acid are used.

15. (New) The process according to claim 4, wherein the catalytic quantities of N-methyl morpholine and methanesulfonic acid are used.

16. (New) The process according to claim 11, wherein the solvate is precipitated from the reaction mass at a pH of above 5.5 to 7.0 in the presence of dimethylformamide.

17. (New) The process according to claim 11, wherein cefprozil hydrate is prepared in step (d) by stirring dimethylformamide solvate in water, filtering the de-solvated cefprozil and drying.

18. (New) The process according to claim 12, wherein cefprozil hydrate is prepared in step (d) by stirring dimethylformamide solvate in water, filtering the de-solvated cefprozil and drying.